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REMARKS

Minor clarifying amendments have been made to the specification. Claims 1-7 remain pending and are not amended. Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto (JP 09126264A). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 requires “a seal part provided on said base part dividing in a fluid-tight manner between a bearing rotatably supporting said shaft on said housing and said two chambers”. The base part is defined in claim 1 (a shaft fixed to a base part of the vane). The seal therefore is required to be on a base part of the vane where it attaches to the shaft.

The rejection incorrectly asserts this feature is disclosed by Yamamoto. The rejection states said seal part comprises a pair of washers 9. Seal washers 9 are not provided on said base part, but instead are provided as baffles on the inner surface of side panels 5, 6. Seal washers 9 do not therefore provide a fluid-tight seal on the base part to divide a shaft bearing from the two chambers in a fluid-tight manner as required by claim 1.

Yamamoto also discloses other seals. None of these other seals disclose or teach providing a fluid-tight seal on a vane base part having a shaft fixed thereto such that the fluid-tight seal on the base part divides a shaft bearing from two oil chambers in a fluid-tight manner as required by claim 1. The features disclosed by Yamamoto therefore bear no resemblance to the invention of claim 1. For at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Yamamoto. In this regard, claims 2-6 are also patentable since they depend from claim 1.

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Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. 29,165, at (612)455-3802.



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Respectfully submitted,

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